

1980

- 27th Nov
- 3rd Dec
- 10th Dec
- 17th Dec
- 24th Dec
- 31st Dec
- 7th Jan
- 14th Jan
- 21st Jan
- 28th Jan
- 4th Feb
- 11th Feb
- 18th Feb
- 25th Feb
- 3rd Mar
- 10th Mar
- 17th Mar
- 24th Mar
- 31st Mar
- 7th Apr
- 14th Apr
- 21st Apr
- 28th Apr
- 5th May
- 12th May
- 19th May
- 26th May
- 2nd Jun
- 9th Jun
- 16th Jun
- 23rd Jun
- 30th Jun
- 7th Jul
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- 21st Jul
- 28th Jul
- 4th Aug
- 11th Aug
- 18th Aug
- 25th Aug
- 1st Sep
- 8th Sep
- 15th Sep
- 22nd Sep
- 29th Sep
- 6th Oct
- 13th Oct
- 20th Oct
- 27th Oct
- 3rd Nov
- 10th Nov
- 17th Nov
- 24th Nov
- 1st Dec

Chicago, February 27. 1920

ident Princeton University

Princeton, N.J.

Dear Sir:

I beg to inquire whether your institution would be interested in the acquisition of an exceptionally fine and scientifically gathered collection of Roman Coins.

It is the product of forty years effort by an expert on Roman numismatics and represents an almost unbroken line of portrait coins from Caesar down to the Fall of the Western Empire, and the 1500 specimens are overwhelmingly in the finest state of preservation. It contains also many rarities of high degree acquired at European auction sales of noted collections.

Financial reverses have compelled me, last summer, to part with the minor Republican series of the collection to the University of Illinois whose lack of appropriation funds alone prevented the purchase of the whole, and I see myself now forced to offer the far more valuable and important Imperial series for sale. This consists of:

	622 Silver Denarii
	370 Grand Bronzes (Sestertius)
	247 Middle Bronzes (Dupondius)
	224 Petit Bronzes (Ass)
	6 As Grave (Complete set)
	17 Miscell. Bronze & Silver
Total	1486 specimens

There is a rare chance in my offer, for prices of this class of coins, especially of bronzes, have in the last few years risen sky-high in the European markets and they are almost unobtainable, at present, in fine condition, and it would take a long effort to gather such a collection as mine. I include in my offer my numismatic library and my coin cabinet for 3000 coins.

Awaiting your kind and early reply, I am

Yours very truly

J. H. M.

COPY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Office of the Secretary
V. L. Collins, Acting Secretary.

Princeton, N. J.,
March 3, 1920.

Mr. Robert Garrett,
German Street Cor. South,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Bob:

I hand you letter received by
President Hibben from Mr. Krausz in regard to a
coin collection he wishes to dispose of.

Sincerely yours,

Signed, V. Lansing Collins.

59 West 57th Street,
New York City
March 18th, 1927.

Sir:

Your letter of February 27th, addressed to the President of Princeton University, has been referred to me. The University is not in a position to purchase collections of coins and although I am a collector I do not know whether I would find it desirable to make this purchase. However, I should be glad to have a complete statement from you in regard to its contents, the condition of the pieces, and the prices you offer them at, and I will give the matter my serious consideration immediately on my return here in about five weeks.

Very truly yours,

S. Krausz, Esq.,
5847 Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago, March 12. 1926

John W. Garrett

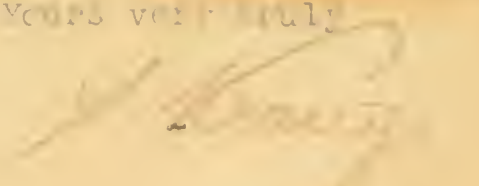
22 W. 57th Str., New York

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 10. relating to the Roman coin collection I offered to Princeton University and would like to know in what way my letter came to be referred to you if you are not connected with that institution.

However, I have no objection to stating my price. It is \$10,000 and includes my numismatic library and cabinet for over 3000 specimens. The state of preservation of the majority of my coins is from fine to extremely fine and uncirculated. It will average Very fine and as there are many First Bronzes and rarities contained in it the price I ask is moderate considering the present value of Roman bronzes and the work of many years in gathering it. It corresponds to the price of another collection which has lately been offered from abroad to one of the universities and the condition of which is not as fine as mine. It also corresponds to the price I received for my Republican series. But the collection must really be seen to be appreciated. Among the rarities are: Tranquillina in silver, Anticus (bronze medaillon) Plotina (bronze and silver) Pescennius Niger, Manlia Scantilla and Didia Clara in bronze and silver, Domitius Domitianus (second bronze) Nigrinianus, several Pertinax and Didius Julianus in bronze and silver, Both the Gordianus Africanus in bronze and silver, Cornelia Supera and many others coming from European collections and dealers. Hoping this will be sufficient information to interest you I await your further communication and remain

Yours very truly



On board the "Solitaire",
Fort Myers, Florida,
April 5th, 1920.

S. Krausz, Esq.,
3847 Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:

I have received your letter of March
fifteenth, nineteen hundred twenty.

A collection of coins belong to my
brother and myself has been on deposit in the Library
of the Princeton University for the past fifteen years,
and I imagine that is the reason why your letter was
turned over to me, as a possible interest, in view of
the fact that the University itself, as I am informed,
is not in a position to take the matter of your offer
up. Our collection which was made largely by my father
who died many years ago, has been added to recently by
my brother and myself, but we have so far confined
ourselves chiefly to American coins. Whether or not it
would be worth our while to consider your offer, I am
at present unable to say.

In any event, as I am not an expert
on these matters, I should feel obliged to consult an
expert, and for that reason it will of course, as you
can readily understand, be necessary to have a complete
list of pieces in your collection and a statement of
their condition. In fact, as you suggest, it would
probably be necessary to have the collection seen, to
be appreciated.

I shall be in the South until the
early part of May when I will return to New York, and
should you care to pursue this matter further, I shall
then be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

JWG/J.

John W. Garrett.

5817 Michigan Ave.

Chicago, April 5. 1920

Mr. John W. Garrett
22 W. 57th Street
New York

Dear Sir:

I take note of the contents of your letter, dated on board the Suitsme (the date April 5. is evidently a mistake) and, according to your suggestion will leave the matter of my coin collection in abeyance until your return from the South. I will write you probably about May 5. or 6.

Since writing you last I have heard from the president of another great eastern university who also tries to interest some wealthy gentleman in the purchase of my collection. (I have written to several universities.)

I am much interested to hear that you and your brother are interested in numismatics and am sure that Princeton would greatly appreciate such an addition as my collection to the one you already have given to that university. The educational, artistic and historic value of an Imperial Roman coin collection such as mine cannot be too highly appreciated by all students of the classics, history and archaeology.

When the time comes I will be ready to submit to you all detailed information you may desire and will give you the names of the professor of the University of Illinois who has expertized my collection before purchasing the Republican series of it for his institution, and that of a nationally known expert and president of a Chicago institute who can give information as to the merit and value of my coins.

Very sincerely yours,

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago

Chicago, May 5. 1920

Mr. John W. Garrett
22 W. 57th Street
New York

Dear Sir:

In pursuance of my letter of April 5. and in compliance with your request, I beg to address you again in relation to the collection of Roman coins in which you showed an interest.

As I indicated in the last paragraph of my letter of April 5. I am ready now to give you any detailed information you may desire and shall be glad to hear from you. In my opinion it might not be a bad plan, and it certainly would be worth while for you if you could spare the time, to come to Chicago for a personal investigation. Otherwise I would suggest that you address Prof. Arthur Stanley Pease, Classical Department University of Illinois, 1014 W. Oregon St., Urbana, Ill. This gentleman and scholar has twice carefully examined and expertized my collection for the University of Illinois, spending two days at it, before purchasing the Republican series (the independent and far less valuable part) of my collection. Another scholar who will probably be willing to answer an inquiry is Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus, President of Armour Institute, Chicago, who also knows the collection.

Awaiting your kind answer with interest, I am

Yours very truly



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5.23

1.68

Per

630

1.55

2.10

676

2.04

Per

687

7.16

8-

May 20th, 1920.

Dear Sir:

I find that it will probably be impossible for me to go to Chicago this summer unless perhaps I should be there for a few days at the time of the meeting of the Republican Convention, of which I am not yet sure. It is likely, however, that the gentleman who some years ago made a catalogue of my father's collection may be in Chicago in August and I have suggested to him that if he goes there he should get into communication with you on my behalf in regard to your collection of coins. The only other way in which I see that we can get together on the subject is that you should send the collection to Baltimore for examination, or that you should send me a complete statement of its contents, with careful notations as to the condition of each piece, noting also such parts of it as you would be willing to sell if, as is likely, I would not care to buy the entire collection as in the present condition of things I feel quite sure I should not be able to consider so large an outlay for such a purpose.

Yours very truly,

E. Krauss, Esq.,
5847 Michigan Ave.,
CHICAGO, Illinois.

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago, May 23. 1920

Mr. John W. Garrett

Redwood St., Corner South, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of May 20th I hope that you will find it possible to come to Chicago during the Republican convention when a couple of hours will best convince you of the desirability to acquire my coin collection for Princeton University.

Under no circumstances will I dispose of only part of this collection, as much of its value, aside from the intrinsic worth, lies in its scientific arrangement and completeness. If I would care to do that, I could dispose of it by means of an auction sale in Europe or America, and there are a number of coin dealers who would be glad to arrange for such a sale. I would much rather consent to a slight reduction in price.

I thought, in case we come to an understanding, to dedicate to you as a patron of numismatics my work "The Pre-Imperial Coinage of Rome" which is ready for publication, if you would accept the dedication.

By the way who is the gentleman whom you have in mind in relation to expertizing my collection? If he is a numismatist in the real sense of the word and a specialist in Roman coins I might know him. If he is a dealer, I would much rather have a scientist or an archaeologist for the purpose.

If you care to, and have in mind the purchase of the whole collection, I will be pleased to send you my private catalogue which contains not only the exact description, state of preservation, source of purchase and prices paid for by me, but many other valuable references. The prices would be no guide for, however, today as they have

considerably increased in late years and being, in many cases, chance bargains, are no indication to the real value today.

Awaiting your further communications with interest, I am

Yours very sincerely

J. H. K. H. H.

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago, June 9. 1920

Mr. John W. Garrett

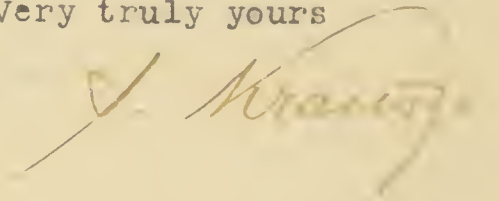
Redwood street., corner South,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I rather hoped to hear from you during the convention here, but as I have received neither a telephone call nor any other communication to that effect, I presume that you have abandoned your intention of coming to Chicago during convention week.

In my letter of May 23. I have fully explained my position and I am anxious to have your answer to it.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Kravitz", is written over the typed phrase "Very truly yours". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

July 9th, 1920.

Dear Sir:

I very much regret that I have not been able to arrange to see you in Chicago in regard to your collection of coins which you wish to sell. I think the only way we can get at this, if at all, will be as I suggested in one of my letters to you to have an expert report to me on the condition and value of your collection and as to whether it would be a good one to add to mine. I should then of course have to consider whether it would come within my means and desires. If it would be agreeable to you, I should be glad to ask Mr. S. H. Chapman of Philadelphia, who has catalogued my father's collection and is well acquainted with it, to call upon you in August, in which month I believe he expects to be in Chicago, obtain the necessary information and report to me on his return east. If this is not agreeable to you, I see no other way of continuing the matter.

Very truly yours,

S. Krausz, Esquire,
6847 Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago

Chicago, July 15. 1920

Mr. John W. Garret, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

The contents of your letter of July 9. are satisfactory to me, although Mr. Chapman, whom I know personally, is a dealer and as such is likely to put a dealers value on a collection without considering the entity, the care and time it has taken to gather. This is the principal reason why I do not care to split up the collection, and wish to see it go to an institution of learning.

As it happens I will go East myself about the end of this month to stay for three weeks, and if it is possible I should like to have an interview with you in New York. But I will be back in Chicago before the Numismatic convention and expect to get in touch with Mr. Chapman then.

To tell the truth, however, I should prefer ^{to} have you ask Mr. Henry Chapman to expertize the collection. He is a brother of S.H., also a dealer and will be in Chicago, as I presume, for the convention. The reason for my preference is that I had several years ago quite a disagreement and controversy ^{with S. H.} in regard to some photographic work he was to do for a publication of a book on Roman coins I had prepared, and this may influence him adversely. However, I leave it to you, but desire that you treat this information confidentially.

Hoping that we will be able to come together on the proposition,
I remain

Yours very truly

At 31. Ind. S. Chapman to
take the up in Chicago

S. H. Chapman

5847 Michigan Ave.

Chicago, September 21. 1920

Mr. John W. Garrett

Meade House, Quaker ridge, Port Chester, New York

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 17. inst. informing me of your decision to drop negotiations re purchase of my Roman coin collection does not surprise me in the least, as I was skeptical from the start when I heard that you had commissioned Mr. S.H. Chapman to report on it. I was foolish enough to have wasted my time with that gentleman when I knew in advance that his report would be adverse. I gave you at the time my reasons for this belief, but I was optimistic enough to hope that there might be a dealer who would disregard the fact that hardly more than a few coins were purchased from him, as well as other disagreements between us.

As it is, the four hours time which Mr. Chapman spent in examination of my collection (in a superficial way) could not possibly give him a proper idea of its value. It would take really three days to do that, even if the gentleman were a better judge of ancient coins than he is.

It would interest me much, though, to know what he had to say about the collection, and I think that the time which I wasted in the negotiations and with Mr. Chapman would entitle me to get the gist, ~~of it~~, at least, of his report for which I would be grateful to you. It is not necessary to assert that the information would be treated confidentially.

Very sincerely yours

J. Kraus

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